(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned 'Crores missing from bank' appearing in the Tribune dated September 26, 1991.

(b) whether any inquiries and investigations have been conducted into the affairs of this bank;

(c) if so, the extent and number of frauds and embezzlement cases detected;

(d) whether any responsibility has been fixed therefor; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and further action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e). UCO Bank has reported that 14 cases of fraudulent payments using forged demand drafts totalling Rs. 21,86,809.30 and one case of withdrawal against wrong debit involving Rs. 45,000/- only were detected in March 1990 at its Sector 17–B Branch, Chandigarh. The Bank has further reported that in connection with these payments, the Central Bureau of Investigation registered a regular case on 28.11.90 against 3 Bank employees and 6 outsiders. UCO Bank has placed 4 employees under suspension.

Revival of State Legislative Council, Tamil Nadu

4909. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:
DR. A.K. PATEL:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly has passed a resolution on October 4, 1991 rescinding an earlier resolution suggesting the revival of the State Legislative Council; and

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Legislative Council Bill, 1990 for the creation of Legislative Councils in the States of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu was passed in the Rajya Sabha on 28th May, 1990 and was transmitted to Lok Sabha. The Bill lapsed with the dissolution of the Ninth Lok Sabha. In view of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly's Resolution rescinding its earlier resolution for revival of the State Legislative Council, no action is required on the part of the Central Government.

Visit of Delegation of Confederation of Engineering Industry to USA

4910. SHRI SRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation of the confederation of Engineering Industry visited the USA recently;

(b) if so, the details of discussions held and the outcome thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The discussions held by the delegation centred around briefing the US Government and industry about India's industrial, fiscal and trade policy changes for strengthening institutional links between the two countries, to promote US participation in India's development through investment, joint ventures, technology transfer and sourcing of software, components and equipment form India. The visit was only exploratory in nature.

(c) The visit helps promote economic and trade ties between the two countries.

[*Translation*]

Effect of External and Internal Loans and Trade Deficit on Growth Rate

4911. SHRI RAM SHARAN YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the growth rate is likely to decline owing to heavy loan repayments and foreign exchange deficit;

(b) the estimated trade deficit during 1991–92 and the amount of internal and external loans to be repaid together with interest thereon; and

(c) the likely decline in the growth rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINSITRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c). The impact of repayment of loans on the growth rate of the country is expected to be marginal because borrowing is being kept under strict limit. The foreign exchange shortage could have an adverse effect upon growth if it is not alleviated by measures to strengthen export performance. However, the government proposes to tackle the foreign exchange shortage by a vigorous export drive so that our growth targets are not jeopardised.

The trade deficit during 1991–92 would depend on our export performance and the level of imports we can maintain keeping in view our foreign exchange reserve position. However, it is expected that current year's trade deficit would be lower compared to the last year's trade deficit at Rs. 15,142 crores. The extent of internal and external borrowing including interest payments as estimated for 1991–92 is as follows:

(Rs. crores)

	Net borrowing	*Interest payment*
Internal	38,545	24,770
External *	4,224	2,702

* Includes external assistance on both Government and non–Government accounts.

Booth Capturing Rigging and other Irregularities during Recent Bye–Election

4912. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK:
SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY:
SHRI P.C THOMAS:
SHRI DATTA TRAYA BANDARU:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI M.V.V. S. MURTHY:
SHRI LALIT ORAON:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of incidents of booth–capturing, rigging, violence and other irregularities took place during the recent bye–elections.

(b) if so, the details thereof, constituency–wise;